

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. In the non-final Office Action of June 27, 2006, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by *Palatov, et al.*
- B.) Rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by *Kobayashi, et al.*

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and addresses the Examiner's disposition below.

- A.) Rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by *Palatov, et al.*:

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

Referring to Applicant's Figures 2-4 as an illustrative example, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 4 each claim a hard disk system that is used as an external storage apparatus of a host device 6. The hard disk system includes a hard disk unit 1 and a conversion unit 2, which is attachable to and detachable from the hard disk unit 1. The hard disk unit 1 includes a hard disk.

The conversion unit 2 includes a host interface section for transmitting and receiving data, which is recorded on and read from the hard disk, to and from the host device 6 in a second transfer format (e.g., USB). A conversion unit side interface section for having data, which is recorded on and read from the hard disk, inputted and outputted to and from the hard disk unit 1 in a first transfer format (e.g., IDE). A transfer format conversion section carries out transfer format conversion between the first transfer format (e.g., IDE) and the second transfer format (e.g., USB), and carries out data transfer between the host interface section and the conversion unit side interface.

This is clearly unlike *Palatov*, which fails to disclose or suggest a conversion unit that includes a transfer format conversion section. Referring to *Palatov* Figure 1C, *Palatov* discloses a hard disk unit 100 that can be attached to a connection box 124. As clearly described in *Palatov*, the connection box 124 merely provides a communication port 126 and a power receptacle 128 that route signals through to the hard disk unit 100. *Palatov* [0031] and [0034]. Unlike Applicant's claimed invention, nowhere does *Palatov* disclose or suggest that its connection box 124 includes a conversion unit that includes a transfer format conversion section. *Palatov*'s connection box is merely a connection box.

For at least this reason, *Palatov* fails to disclose or suggest claims 1 and 4.

Claims 2, 3, and 5-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 or 4 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 4 are allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

B.) Rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by *Kobayashi, et al.*:

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

Referring to Applicant's Figures 2-4 as an illustrative example, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 4 each claim a hard disk system that is used as an external storage apparatus of a host device 6. The hard disk system includes a hard disk unit 1 and a conversion unit 2, which is attachable to and detachable from the hard disk unit 1. The hard disk unit 1 includes a hard disk.

The conversion unit 2 includes a host interface section for transmitting and receiving data, which is recorded on and read from the hard disk, to and from the host device 6 in a second transfer format (e.g., USB). A conversion unit side interface section for having data, which is recorded on and read from the hard disk, inputted and outputted to and from the hard disk unit 1 in a first transfer format (e.g., IDE). A transfer format conversion section carries out transfer format conversion between the first transfer format (e.g., IDE) and the second transfer format (e.g., USB), and carries out data transfer between the host interface section and the conversion unit side interface.

This is clearly unlike *Kobayashi*, which fails to disclose or suggest a detachable/attachable conversion unit that includes a transfer format conversion section. Referring to *Kobayashi* Figure 2, *Kobayashi* discloses a storage device 1. As clearly shown and described in *Kobayashi*, the single-box storage device 1 includes a hard disk drive 63 and interface controllers for PCMCIA 91, IDE 61, SD 111, and USB 46. Nowhere does *Kobayashi* suggest an attachable/detachable conversion unit that includes a transfer format conversion section. Instead, like the conventional art described in Applicant's Background of the Invention, *Kobayashi* teaches a one-box unit that includes a hard disk and performs format conversion.

For at least this reason, *Kobayashi* fails to disclose or suggest claims 1 and 4.

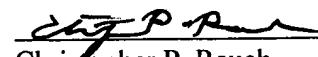
Claims 2, 3, and 5-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 or 4 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 4 are allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-15 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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